

# DESERT VOICE



**K-9**  
**OFF THE**  
**LEASH!**

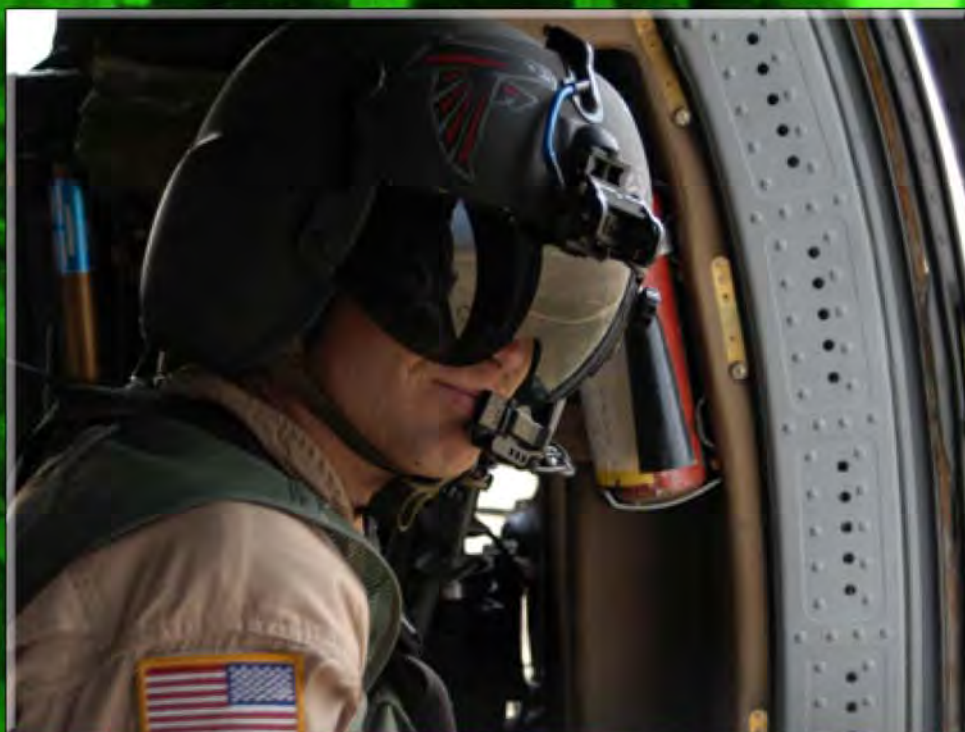
**(This is 'Roy')**



## DESERT VOICE INSPIRATION

**"It is morale that wins the victory. With it, all things are possible; without it, everything else, planning, preparation, and production, count for nothing."**

**-- George C. Marshall**



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Photo by Staff Sgt. Andy Thaggard

*Spc. Jason Helton, of Monroe, N.C., observes the terrain on a leader's reconnaissance mission in Kuwait. Helton is a crew chief on the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and is serving with Co. A., 171 Aviation, from Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Atlanta, Ga. National Guard in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.*

## The Desert Voice

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## NEW INCENTIVE PAY FOR EXTENDED SERVICE - IRAQ

**Servicemembers deployed to Iraq beyond 12 months will now receive \$800 extra each month in Assignment Incentive Pay (AIP), and an extra \$200 a month in HFP.**

**See page 11 for more details.**

**If you are interested having your photo considered for photo of the week, please e-mail the photo, as well as outline information to [karima.mares@us.army.mil](mailto:karima.mares@us.army.mil)**



**Ques: When you hear "Call to Colors" you should...?**

- A: keep walking**
- B: go to Parade Rest**
- C: assume position of Attention**

**Correct answer:  
C - come to 'Attention'**



**The Desert Voice staff welcomes your story suggestions and photos. Email them to us, or call us at DSN 825-5332 or 825-4730.**



**Sgt. Lindsee Baysinger, 42nd MP Detachment restrains her partner, Roy, a 3-year-old German Shepard, before setting him free to practice his bite work.**

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# GOING BACK.

## Homecomings delayed as forces answer call

**Spc. Karima L. Mares, 13th Public Affairs Detachment**

### OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM—

Duffle bags are packed, trucks are washed, body armor turned in and finally, you feel as if a huge weight has been lifted from your shoulders, it's time to go home... and then, days, maybe even hours before you are to board the plane that will take you home, you are notified that your mission has been extended.

With the ongoing war on terror, the call to serve has been answered by countless servicemembers, and for many serving in Kuwait and Iraq, their duties will continue past their scheduled departure date.

"We had a significant increase of enemy activity at a time when we were working to both deploy forces into theatre, and re-deploy those forces that were coming up on their one-year boots on the ground period," said Col. Gregory Adams, Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC), chief of operations. "It was assessed by the senior leadership that we needed to halt any further re-deployments and assess what capabilities were required to counter the enemy activity that had occurred over the last several days."

According to Adams, all of the re-deploying operations stopped so leaders had an opportunity to determine what units were still in theatre and who's capabilities were required by the commanding officer of United States troops

in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, to take care of the situation.

"Some subordinate units, that are combat support and combat service support units, like MPs and transportation assets that provide fuel, ammunition and line haul capabilities are critically important to sustaining operations in Iraq," Adams said. "In most cases, those types of units were held and many of them are going to be retained and re-assigned either to perform operations in Kuwait or Iraq."

"I'm not too surprised," said Capt. Anthony Merriweather, 129<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company, commander. "After reading the newspapers and watching the news, we knew that the warfighters had to get back into the fight and that requires having those assets, and that's us, we're a Heavy Equipment Transport (HET) company, so basically we haul armored equipment and engineer equipment onto the battlefield."

Although Soldiers are looking at returning to duty sooner than expected, Adams said that no one will be sent into a mission that they are not trained for.

"They will be expected to perform the missions that they would traditionally perform," he said. "If a military police unit has been performing an escort mission, they will go back to performing that type of mission."

Servicemembers whose units have been extended are inevitably disappointed at not returning home as scheduled, but vow to continue to do what they can for their comrades.

"It's frustrating, but we're going to do what it takes to get the mission done," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mark Taylor, 129<sup>th</sup> Transportation Co., acting first sergeant. "HETS are a credible asset, both up there and down here, we're just answering the call."

"We'll just continue on as we've always done; work together, and focus on the big picture," Merriweather added. "We can't slack on our jobs, too many people depend on us. We have to move tanks up north, they need engineer equipment to build bridges and clear bridges, they need equipment to go in and take towns away from the insurgents, so a lot of Soldiers' lives depend on us getting their equipment out there."

Adams also said that occurrences like having re-deployment delayed to continue a mission happens only under extraordinary circumstances, and that these servicemembers are truly needed to support the War on Terror.

"Sometimes we forget because we get in a steady state situation, that this is combat operations," Adams said. "This is part of the global war on terror and if we bring ourselves back to that idea and concept, then I think Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines understand that 'Hey, when the chips are down and my country needs me to perform a task, regardless if I've got to stay here longer than a year, I'm willing to accept that.'"

"If we have to do it, we'll do it," said Staff Sgt. Cliff McClatcher, 1175<sup>th</sup> Transportation Co. "We're not happy about being held back, we're tired but, whatever it takes to support our country."

**"It's frustrating, but we're going to do what it takes to get the mission done."**

**-- Sgt. 1st Class Mark Taylor**



# ENEMY WITHIN

**Spc. Scott Akanewich**



# THE BATTLE AGAINST STRESS

**13th Public Affairs Detachment**

The enemy our Army fights in this modern-day arena is unlike any other we have faced in the history of our country.

There are no columns of British regulars on a field in South Carolina, nor are there Nazi-infested hedgerows standing between us and our objective.

No, our contemporary enemies lie in wait, hiding in the shadows, waiting for the opportune moment to strike when we least expect it in the form of ambushes, improvised explosive devices and other various hit-and-run guerilla tactics.

However, our troops are now facing just as fierce and dangerous of a foe, but not one wielding an AK-47 or rocket-propelled grenade.

This enemy lies within the recesses of each Soldier's mind in the form of combat stress and the many maladies that can result from it.

"A lot of these Soldiers are stressed to the max," said Maj. Anthony Hassan, 8th Medical Brigade, combat stress control officer.

Combat Stress Control and Prevention Team Victory is a joint venture between the Army and Air Force designed to mitigate post-traumatic stress disorder and to maximize the war-fighting capabilities of servicemembers through mental health care and psychological brief

interventions.

According to Hassan, the term "combat stress" is an umbrella covering problems such as battle fatigue and misconduct as well as homefront issues affecting servicemembers' mindsets as they cope with the mission here in theatre. It can manifest itself as the result of various occurrences, he said.

"IEDs, line-of-duty and combat

through is common, things will pass and they can't control homefront issues."

One of Team Victory's primary objectives is to provide leadership the expertise to recognize when their troops may be suffering from combat stress, then what steps to take to ensure the individual Soldier receives the help he or she needs, said Hassan.

recommendations of an Army team that was dispatched to investigate the reasons behind the high suicide rate in theatre last year, said Kutz.

"The reason we're here is because of the mental health assessments that were done after there were 24 suicides over an approximate six-month period," he said.


In order to better realize what they go through on a daily basis, Team Victory lives in the field among the people they are tasked to help, said Kutz.

"We made a conscious decision to live out here in the desert so we could better relate to the Soldiers," he said.

The team covers 800-1000 miles per week covering their area of responsibility, which includes Camps Victory, New York, Udairi and Virginia as well as Navistar.

Additional members of Team Victory are Staff Sgt. Theodore Kraszka and Senior Airman Bonnie Hayes, who assist with logistics.

The team gets a certain level of satisfaction from what they do, said Hassan.

"I feel so proud to be able to help Soldiers," he said. "We have a great job and it's very important. If I wasn't married, I could stay out here forever." 

“They need reassurance that what they’re going through is common.”

-Maj. Anthony Hassan

deaths as well as disappointment about being sent back into Iraq are common," said Hassan.

Common symptoms of battle fatigue are feeling burned out, anxiety, lack of motivation, hypervigilance and excessive worry.

Sometimes, however, Soldiers just need someone who will listen to them, said Hassan.

"They might just need someone to talk with to normalize their situation," he said. "They need reassurance that what they're going

"We train senior leaders to build better morale and to have better communication with their soldiers," he said. "Our focus is to train them to take care of their troops."

The joint venture between services is unique, said Lt. Col. David Kutz, Team Victory commander.

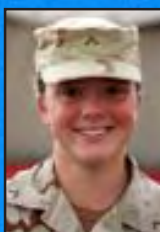
"The Air Force is carrying out this mission for the Army," said Kutz. "It's the first time we've done something like this."

Team Victory is the result of the

## FACES OF FREEDOM



**CW3 Audrey Skinner,**  
Enterprise, Ala.



**Pvt. Jessica Devereaux,**  
St. Johns, Mich.



**Maj. Peter Boyle,**  
Mililani, Hawaii



**Spc. Freeda Brown**  
Darlington, S.C.





# LOCK-UP KUWAIT

## Doing time at the Camp Arifjan confinement facility

**Spc. Scott Akanewich, 13th Public Affairs Detachment**

Staff Sgt. Karla Donaldson stands a vigilant watch at the gates of the Camp Arifjan Confinement Facility, for she understands that she is not only defending freedom in a faraway land, but is also the last line of defense for Soldiers who have gone astray of the Army values and are looking for another chance.

Donaldson, a guard commander, along with the rest of the 535<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, is tasked with running the facility which houses prisoners who have committed various crimes in theater ranging from disrespect to the chain of command and disobeying direct orders to more serious offenses such as dereliction of duty and violation of General Order #1.

The facility, which has a capacity of approximately 50, is, on the average, roughly 75% full at any given time, said Capt. John McCoy, 535<sup>th</sup> MP Bn., CONFAC, commander.

"The majority of our detainees come from Iraq," said McCoy. "They are usually escorted down by their units."

Due to the fact this is the only confinement facility in the region, things are made easier for units who have Soldiers who have committed violations, said McCoy.

"We alleviate pressure off units because the next nearest facility is in Germany," he said. "This way, they don't have to escort them all the way there."

According to McCoy, the local environment presents additional challenges to running such a facility.

"Everything has to be brought in as opposed to a hardened facility where all resources are internal," he said. "Also, security is much harder to attain here than in a hardened facility."

As a result, the entire facility is surrounded by concertina and barbed wire to discourage any escape attempts, although that's not usually a concern, said McCoy.

"Once the prisoners settle down, they are very compliant," he said. "They have to come back and settle themselves a bit because of combat stress."

Maintaining vigilance of the mission at hand is crucial, regardless of the fact the prisoners are fellow Soldiers, said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Ray Biggs, 535<sup>th</sup> MP Bn., CONFAC, first sergeant.

"The type of prisoners we have from up north have stories to tell, but you have to stay focused," said Biggs.

"We see what goes on up

there. You want to empathize with them, but you still have a job to do."

McCoy agreed.


"You have to realize they committed a crime and maintain a professional work ethic at all times," he said.

Still though, it can sometimes be difficult, said Donaldson, who previously served at an Enemy Prisoner of War camp in Iraq.

"Here you have to make different calls because these prisoners aren't the enemy," she said. "These Soldiers have broken a rule, but if they can leave here with a sense of discipline, they're taking a step in the right direction. We're rehabbing them and getting them back to basics."

As a result, Donaldson gets a certain satisfaction from her role, she said.

"I'm proud of my unit and I'm proud to be here to do my part in this war," she said.

"Also, I'm happy to help these Soldiers get back on track." 

**"Here you have  
to make  
different calls  
because these  
prisoners aren't  
the enemy."**

**-Staff Sgt. Karla Donaldson**



The dictionary defines the word respect as "to consider worthy of high regard."

In the military, that translates to all of the customs and courtesies we are taught from the first day of Basic Training, which we, as Soldiers, are expected to follow throughout our Army careers.

Rendering a salute to a commissioned officer.

"Yes, sir." "No, ma'am." "Roger that, sergeant."

Walking to the left of someone who outranks you.

They're simple tasks, really. They just require attention to detail.

However, respect for leadership goes beyond a simple hand gesture or short phrase and disrespect of any kind won't be tolerated.

The Uniform Code of Military Justice spells it out as such: *Disrespectful behavior is that which detracts from the respect due the authority and person of a superior commissioned or noncommissioned officer. It may consist of acts or language, however expressed, and it is immaterial whether they refer to the superior as an officer, NCO or as a private individual. Disrespect by words may be conveyed by abusive epithets or other contemptuous or denunciatory language. Truth is no defense. Disrespect by acts includes neglecting the customary salute, or showing a marked disdain, indifference, insolence, impertinence, undue familiarity, or other rudeness in the presence of the superior officer or NCO.*

The unique atmosphere this theatre provides presents different kinds of challenges as far as military bearing is concerned, said Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Longwill, 348th

**-see Respect, page 9**



# Fur FANGS and FURY

## K-9 unit puts a leash on crime

Story & photos by Spc. Karima L. Mares, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM—While force protection is everyone's business, for some Soldiers, it's their life, they are the 523rd Military Police Detachment, K-9 unit.

Day after day, teams that consist of a Soldier and their canine counterpart are sent out across Kuwait to ensure the safety of those working and residing in base camps in Kuwait.

From force protection, to customs sweeps and unit health and welfare inspections, these Soldiers have kept busy in the few months since arriving in Kuwait.

"We've

had a handful of narcotics finds, and approximately a half dozen finds with explosive dogs and ammo," said Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Wilson, 523rd MP Det., Kennel Master.

Even though the Soldiers regularly face criminals, drugs and bomb threats, according to Wilson, their biggest challenge has been the heat.

"The dogs don't sweat like humans," Wilson said. "The only way for them to cool down is by panting or through the pads of their feet, so we have to monitor them closely."

To ensure that man's best friend stays cool in the desert heat, the Soldiers go to great lengths to keep their partners comfortable.

"We have Ice vests that we put over the dogs' backs and booties for their paws so their feet don't get burned from the hot sand," Wilson said. "We also train in the heat as much as we can," he added.

The Soldiers are continuously honing their skills, practicing different tactics and techniques with their partners.

"The dogs are trained to

**// I know my job is dangerous, but I like doing it anyway.**

**-Sgt. Billy Decker**



***Photos: Spc. Daniel Gagen, with the 179th Military Police Detachment out of Fort Stewart, Ga. practices bite work, with Roy, a 3-year-old German Shepard and patrol explosives dog from the 42nd MP Det. out of Fort Bragg, N.C.***

find explosives and narcotics and all of them are dual trained as attack dogs," Wilson said.

"On a weekly basis, the handlers get at least four hours of detection training, and also

receive two to three hours of patrol training, where they practice bite work which is used to help apprehend assailants."

One Soldier, Sgt. Billy Deen, an explosive detector dog handler on Camp Arifjan said that he loves working with his partner.

"My favorite part of my job is training with my dog," said the Fernadina, Fla. Native. "We hide explosives in warehouses and then we take our dogs in to find them; My dog, Sorbon, has a really good nose and drags me to where the explosives are," Deen added.

Although the overall tone of K-9 units seems to be dangerous, soldiers understand that what they are doing helps their comrades in arms complete their missions.

"I know my dog is a really good dog and we train well," Deen said. "I feel good knowing we're out there preventing possible deaths and acting as a deterrent to people bringing in explosives."

Aside from



protecting the safety and security of servicemembers serving in Kuwait in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, many of the dog-handlers have worked with high-profile individuals, and other agencies.

"I know my job is dangerous, but I like doing it anyway; I've gotten to work with the Vice President Chaney and the Secret Service," Deen said. "We also do sweeps for other VIPs that come through the camp." 





# Desert life: HYDRATION IS KEY!

Spc. Scott Akanewich  
13th Public Affairs Detachment

*"Water, water everywhere and all the boards did shrink. Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink."—Rime of the Ancient Mariner.*

The Mariner may not have had any water to drink on his fabled, mythical journey, however, there is plenty of H<sub>2</sub>O for the taking here in Kuwait.

Take a look around you and chances are that someplace nearby is a pallet stacked high with bottled water.

"Drink water!"

It's an all too common refrain all Soldiers hear probably more than they would like during Basic Combat and Advanced Individual Training, but that drill sergeant, contrary to what you believed at the time, was only looking after your best interests.

Dehydration is one of a Soldier's


worst enemies in the desert, one that blends in with the rugged terrain like a chameleon waiting to pounce on its prey. That's why it's so important to remember what your old drill sergeant screamed at you and drink...and drink...and drink some more.

Dehydration means your body does not have as much water and fluids as it should and can be caused by losing too much fluid, not drinking enough water or fluids, or a combination of both. Dehydration is classified into three categories: mild, moderate, or severe based on the percentage of body weight lost. When severe, dehydration is a life-threatening emergency.

The human body is made up of two-thirds water, so it's absolutely imperative for Soldiers to hydrate accordingly on an individual basis and for leaders to ensure their troops do so, especially when engaged in strenuous,

outdoor activities.

It's important to recognize signs and symptoms of dehydration which include: thirst, sudden weight loss, rough, dry skin, dry mucous membranes, weak, irregular or rapid heartbeat, low blood pressure, lack of energy, general weakness and rapid or shallow breathing.

Remember, there's one way to beat dehydration and that's to beat a path to one of those highly-stacked pallets of bottled water. 



**SAFETY IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS,  
WHEREVER YOU ARE!**

# SAFETY

**The army is embarked on an effort to reduce preventable accidents by 50 percent over the next two years. We are an army at war, and these new conditions require a safety mindset.**

**To reduce accidents we all must take care of each other from senior leadership to the recruit.**

**SOLDIERS—MAKE IT HOME.  
LEADERS—BRING THEM HOME.**

**This bus was left on a 3 degree grade... without the parking break on. It rolled into the SPOD harbor. Photo by Senior Chief Michael Stoker, USN.**

**This is NO way to hydrate.**





# Upcoming Events in Kuwait

## Camp Arifjan

### Wednesday

D.J. Music Mix, Zone II

### Saturday

Country Night, 7 p.m.

### Sunday

Domino Racing Demolition Remote  
Control Car Racing 6:30 p.m.,  
community center

### Monday

Unit Level Softball league, 6 p.m.,  
gym

### Tuesday

Unit level Softball League, 6 p.m.,  
gym

Uno Tournament, 7p.m., Community  
Club

Bench Press Competition sign-up  
cut-off

## Camp Doha

### Wednesday

Bingo night, 7 p.m., Frosty's

### Friday

Reggae music night, 7 p.m., Frosty's

### Saturday

Old School music and game night,  
7p.m., Frosty's

### Sunday

Spa day, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.,  
Marble Palace

### Tuesday

Foosball Tournament, 7 p.m.,  
Frosty's

## ARIFJAN FACILITY HOURS

### ZONE I

#### Red Cross

24 hours

#### Post Office

7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

#### AAFES PX & shops

10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

#### Food

10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

#### Green Beans

7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

### ZONE II

#### Dry Cleaner

9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

#### Food

9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

#### Concessions

7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

#### Hol-N-One

1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

#### Club Mirage

1 p.m. - 12 p.m.;

Fri., Sat.

### ZONE I & II

#### Laundry

7 a.m. - 6 p.m.,

closed Fri.

#### Gym

24 hours

#### Pool

10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

#### Self-Service

Center

7 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

& 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.;

closed Thurs. & Fri.

#### Community

Club

1 p.m. - 10

p.m.

#### Theater

5:30 p.m. - 10

p.m.

## CAMP DOHA MOVIES

Wednesday	5:30 p.m.	The Perfect Score
	8 p.m.	Along Came Polly
Thursday	5:30 p.m.	The Butterfly Effect
	8 p.m.	The Big Bounce
Friday	5:30 p.m.	Cold Mountain
	8 p.m.	Calendar Girls
Saturday	2 p.m.	Lord of the Rings III
	5:30 p.m.	Mystic River
	8 p.m.	Torque
Sunday	2 p.m.	Big Fish
	5:30 p.m.	The Last Samurai
	8 p.m.	My Baby's Daddy
Monday	5:30 p.m.	Win a Date with Tad Hamilton
	8 p.m.	Gothika
Tuesday	5:30 p.m.	The Perfect Score
	8 p.m.	Barber Shop 2



## CAMP ARIFJAN MOVIES

Wednesday	6 p.m.	Belly of the Beast
	8 p.m.	Betsy's Wedding
Thursday	6 p.m.	Bring It On
	8 p.m.	Minority Report
Friday	6 p.m.	Evolution
	8 p.m.	Play it to the Bone
Saturday	6 p.m.	American Graffiti
	8 p.m.	Black Hawk Down
Sunday	6 p.m.	View from the Top
	8 p.m.	The Yards
Monday	6 p.m.	Head of State
	8 p.m.	The Pilot's Wife
Tuesday	6 p.m.	Tommy Boy
	8 p.m.	Message in a Bottle



## RESPECT, continued from page 4

Personnel Group, theatre adjutant general  
command sergeant major.

"I think it matters where you are," said  
Longwill. "Soldiers are more cognizant of  
customs and courtesies up north because  
they're in a hostile environment which  
requires discipline. When they get back to  
the safe zone away from the snipers and  
improvised explosive devices, they tend to  
relax, but I think there's a decent amount of  
respect here."

For example, Soldiers who are re-  
deploying from Iraq are coming from a field  
environment where they are accustomed to  
not saluting, so a re-adjustment period is  
to be expected, said Longwill.

"Soldiers don't salute in a combat  
zone, so it's not an intentional thing," he  
said.

According to Longwill, however, the  
large percentage of National Guard and  
Army Reserve assets in theatre presents a  
challenge for the Soldiers themselves.

"They come here from a casual  
atmosphere, so it's a tough adjustment  
for them," he said.

Longwill added that the generational  
gap between ranks these days often  
creates perceived disrespect even if none  
is intended by the lower-ranking Soldier,  
he said.

"We have to realize we have  
differences in the way we communicate,"  
he said. "You don't want to overreact.  
When in doubt, ask for clarification  
before putting the hammer down."

One of Longwill's pet peeves is  
Soldiers' attitudes in general when they  
are asked to do something, he said.

"I don't have time, in this  
environment, to explain why I want a  
Soldier to do something," he said.

Overall, though, Longwill approves  
of how Soldiers here in theatre are  
conducting themselves, he said.

"I have found the Soldiers here have  
been respectful," said Longwill. "I think  
they realize the seriousness of the  
situation."

## DOHA FACILITY HOURS

<b>AAFES Concessions</b> 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily	<b>PX Hours</b> 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily
<b>Food Concessions</b> 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily	<b>Education Center</b> Sat. - Thurs.
<b>Multi-Media Center</b> 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
<b>Dining Facility</b> Breakfast 5:30 - 8 a.m.	<b>MWR Movie Checkout</b> 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. daily
Lunch 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	<b>TMC</b> Sick call 8 - 10 a.m.
Dinner 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	1-3:30 p.m.
Midnight 12 - 2 a.m.	by appointments only.
<b>Barber Shop</b> 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily	Immunizations 2-3:30 p.m.
<b>Finance</b> Sat. - Fri.	(No Shots on Wed. and Thur.)
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	<b>Salon</b> Sat. - Thurs.
<b>Red Cross</b> 24-hours	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
<b>Self Help</b> Mon. - Sat.	<b>Travel Office</b> Sat. - Thurs.
9 - 11:30 a.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
12:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Closed Friday
<b>Personnel Services</b> Sat. - Fri.	<b>Gym</b> 24-Hours
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	<b>Dental Clinic</b> Sat. - Fri.
Mon.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
1 - 4:30 p.m.	<b>Housing Equipment Exchange</b> Sat. - Wed.
<b>Post Office</b> Sat. - Wed.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	<b>Uncle Frosty's</b> 2 p.m. - Midnight daily
<b>DOIM CPC</b> Sat.	<b>TMP Dispatch Office</b> Sat. - Tues. 6 a.m. - 4 p.m.
8 - 11:45 a.m. 1 - 3 p.m.	Wed. 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sun. - Wed.	Thur. - Fri Closed
8 - 11:45 a.m. 1 - 4 p.m.	



Photo by Staff Sgt. Andy Thaggard



# Sawdust Sanctuary

## Servicemembers find relaxation through woodworking

**Spc. Scott Akanewich, 13th Public Affairs Detachment**

The sound of a saw blade cutting through a good piece of wood, sawdust littering a clean floor like the first winter's snow.

For a woodworking enthusiast, it is soothing to the soul.



**Spc. Buddy Evans, 565th Quartermaster Company, measures a two-by-four at the Camp Arifjan woodshop, which offers Soldiers a chance to break away from the daily grind of deployment.**

From garages and workshops across America, the art of taking a pile of wood and crafting something of value from virtually nothing is a hobby enjoyed by millions of amateur and professional carpenters alike.

Unfortunately for deployed Soldiers, it's usually a hobby they must leave behind when they are deployed to various corners of the globe in freedom's defense. However, for Soldiers on Camp Arifjan and its satellite camps, that is no longer the case, thanks to the Self-Help Center Woodshop located in Bldg. 313.

"We're contracted to support the Soldiers," said Gary Solmans, Self-Help Center, coordinator. "They seem to enjoy coming here."

The woodshop is equipped to handle anything from the building of furniture for Soldiers' living quarters to larger unit projects, such as countertops for customer

service in various offices.

According to Ken Fox, lead carpenter, the shop offers more, however, than just the ability to build. It offers the chance to relax, he said.

"It takes Soldiers out of the daily routine," said Fox, who brings 41 years of carpentry experience to the table from his native Great Britain. "Woodworking allows them to work with their hands. They get self-satisfaction and enjoyment from it."

The shop is set up to benefit everyone from the novice to the experienced carpenter, with safety the overriding factor, said Solmans.

"The whole front end is safety," he said. "Everyone must go through certification first."

Safety is vital because the machinery in the shop doesn't discriminate when it comes to potential injury, regardless of someone's experience level, said Fox.

"The machines don't have feelings," he said. "If you don't treat them right, they'll hurt you."

One servicemember taking advantage of the shop was Senior Master Sgt. David Veenstra, 887th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, who was busily putting the finishing touches on a combination wardrobe/bookshelf.

"The really neat thing is this is available

here, because at my home station we don't have this," said Veenstra. "It improves my quality of life because I can stop living out of my ruck."

The wardrobe, which took about five hours to complete, was made easier by the helpful staff the shop employs, said Veenstra.

"The staff was very helpful," he said. "They helped me cut the wood and the language barrier didn't seem to matter because woodworking is woodworking."

Beginners need not be intimidated, said Fox.

"If someone can hit a nail with a hammer, I can show them," he said.


Also, unlike many other recreational activities Soldiers partake in to kill time, woodworking is something they can take back home with them, said Fox.

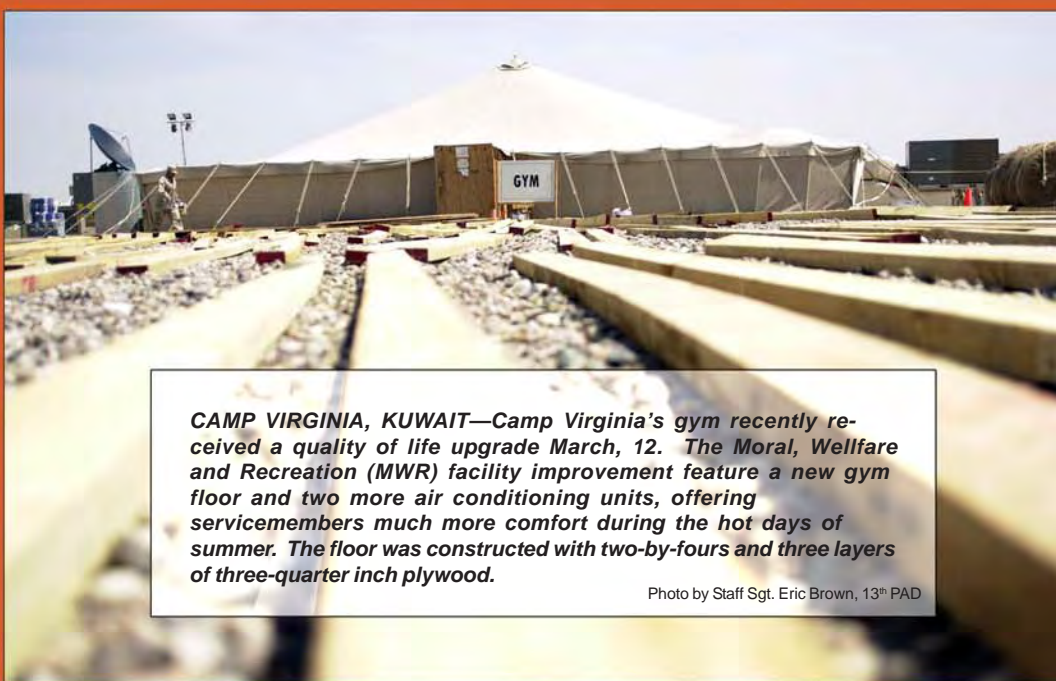
"It's a skill you'll take with you when you leave for recreation or employment," he said.

Just the presence of the shop alone manifests the Army's forward thinking, said Solmans.

"It shows their commitment to Soldiers and acts as a morale booster," he said. "We consider it a privilege to help them."

The allure of woodworking was perhaps summed up best by Spc. Buddy Evans, 565th Quartermaster Company.

"I just like making something from nothing," he said. 



**CAMP VIRGINIA, KUWAIT**—Camp Virginia's gym recently received a quality of life upgrade March, 12. The Moral, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facility improvement feature a new gym floor and two more air conditioning units, offering servicemembers much more comfort during the hot days of summer. The floor was constructed with two-by-fours and three layers of three-quarter inch plywood.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Brown, 13th PAD



# Branch Based warrant officers get a new look



By Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs  
ARNEWS

Beginning this summer, the warrant officer component is taking another step toward better integrating itself into the Army's officer corps. As of July 9 all warrant officers will replace the "Eagle Rising" insignia on their left collar with their appropriate branch insignia. The insignia will have to be purchased, it will not be issued.

Regular commissioned officers have always worn their branch insignia on their left collar, and this uniform change is a step toward the full integration into the branch-based systems of the larger officer corps, personnel official said.

"Warrant officers traditionally have not been treated as part of the officer corps. We've kind of been in this strange gray area between the noncommissioned officer and the regularly commissioned branch officer," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Albert Eggerton, the warrant officer personnel policy integrator for the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, G1. "When Congress and our own leadership look at initiatives for the officer corps, they tend to overlook us because we're so small," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Andrew Barr, who previously worked in G1 with Eggerton. "We make up less than 2 percent of the Army and less than 14 percent of the officer corps."

As the technical experts, the role of warrant officers will increase dramatically as technology drives the battlefield, said Barr, who is currently at the U.S. Army Signal Center at Fort Gordon, Ga.


Retiring the "Eagle Rising" insignia resulted from of the Army Training and Leadership Panel – Warrant Officer Study. The study was the third phase in a four-phase Army-wide self-assessment directed by retired Gen. Eric Shinsek, the former chief of staff.

Forty-five initiatives came out of the study to include changing the chief warrant officer 5 rank to a silver colored bar with a black line in the center of the bar. The rank is currently worn by senior warrant officers in the Navy and Marine Corps, and was first approved in 1973.

The current rank, a silver bar with four open face squares, was always meant to be a transitional rank, Eggerton said.

"In the future we see an increasing role in joint operations, and it would make it easier in the joint world to identify us correctly by wearing the same insignia that our sister services are wearing," Eggerton said.

The change in uniform is not the first step the warrant officer component has taken in its journey to be more recognized in the officer corps, Eggerton said.

Other changes Eggerton said are in the process of being reviewed for approval are combining the warrant officer education system with the officer education system, and getting warrant officers commissioned at warrant officer 1 rank instead of warrant officer 2. 



**WE NEED YOU!**

## NEW INCENTIVES

### **Involuntarily Extended beyond 12-months? Extra Hardship & Assignment Incentive Pay**

To ensure we maintain the appropriate level of security and troop strength during the rotation of units in Iraq and/or Afghanistan, it may be necessary to extend several units, which are scheduled to depart within the next several months. Military members, who are in a unit currently deployed in Iraq that the Combatant Commander has determined will be required to remain in Iraq beyond the unit's normal 12-month rotation return date, will be offered the incentive package prescribed herein for any month or portion thereof the members are extended in Iraq.

To qualify for these incentives, an individual member currently serving in a specified unit in Iraq must have been deployed to Iraq (to include staging time in Kuwait) and/or Afghanistan for a combined deployed time of 12 consecutive months, or 12 months within a 15-month period.

A member who qualifies for this incentive package will be paid a flat \$200 in extra HDP for any month or any portion of a month served in Iraq beyond the date the member's unit was due to rotate out of Iraq, as long as the member's total monthly rate of HDP does not exceed \$300. Additionally, the member will be offered: a flat \$800 per month in AIP to be paid for any month in which the member performs service in Iraq beyond the member's scheduled 12-month rotation date.

### **New policy for lump-sum re-up bonuses approved You may qualify...**

The Army has a great deal for several thousand Soldiers who re-upped in the Middle East last year, but who missed out on the \$5,000 lump sum bonus offered during the last two weeks of September.


Under new policy just approved by the Defense Department, some Soldiers who re-enlisted in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait from March 18 through Sept. 18, 2003 are eligible for a retroactive lump sum payment of up to \$5,000.

The policy took affect April 15.

Until career counselors and retention NCOs are authorized to modify re-enlistment documents so that qualified Soldiers can receive their lump sum payments.

Soldiers who believe they qualify for a bonus should contact a career counselor or retention NCO.

Qualified Soldiers who re-enlisted last year without a Selective Re-enlistment Bonus (SRB) will receive a \$5,000 lump sum payment. Soldiers who received an SRB of less than \$5,000 will receive an amount that will take their bonus up to \$5,000. Soldiers who received an SRB of \$5,000 or more will not receive any more money.

Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee established the retroactive policy as a matter of equity for soldiers who missed out on the \$5,000 in-theater bonus offered Sept. 19-30. Nearly 2,000 deployed troopers signed for additional service during that time frame.   
(Information courtesy of Army Times)



# Operation Iraqi Freedom



Photo courtesy of DOD

Staff Sgt. James Smith holds his eight-month old son Malik for the first time after returning home to Nevada from a 13-month deployment to Kuwait and Iraq. Smith is assigned to the 257th Transportation Company.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Klaus Baesu

Cpl. Rickie Hollon, 1st Infantry Division's Company C, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment provides security at a government building in Tikrit, Iraq that has been the object of several terrorist attacks, forcing the authorities to augment the security already provided by Iraqi Civil Defense Corps.



Photo by Pfc. Elizabeth Erste

Sgt. Nicolas Thornbro keeps his weapon ready during a night patrol in Tikrit, Iraq. Thornbro is assigned to the 1st Infantry Division's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Charles B. Johnson

A sniper peers through his sight at potential enemy targets moving along the rooftop of a nearby building during a search mission in Al Fallujah, Iraq. The paratrooper is assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.



photo by Spc. Lorie Jewell

Sandy Hanke (at right) gives a boisterous welcome home to soldiers with the 43rd Area Support Group, 3rd Brigade, 7th Infantry Division and the 113th Medical Company, Combat Stress Control, an Army Reserve unit from Las Alamedos, Calif., as they arrive home after a year in Iraq.